

## **Trapper Education**

### **Options and Considerations**

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#### **Authority/Mandate**

- Trapper Education could be mandatory or voluntary.
- A mandatory trapper education program would require the creation of regulations to establish the authority for such a program. This could be established through NAC.
- NDOW does not have the statutory authority to create mandatory education programs for the general public or constituencies over which it has no other regulatory authority.

#### **Mandate Options**

1. Trapper Education could be made completely voluntary, not required to obtain a trapping license
2. Trapper Education could be made totally mandatory, required for a trapping license
3. Trapper Education could be required one time only or require recertification over a designated period of time
4. Trapper Education could be exempted for certain criteria. For example:
  - a. Trappers holding a license for a designated number of years during the past designated number of years (i.e. 2 of the last 5 years)
  - b. Trappers born before a certain date

## **Course Objectives**

- Is the objective to teach students how to trap or simply inform them of Nevada's trapping regulations?

## **Objective Options**

Trapper Education could consist of a variety of topics, some options could include, but not be limited to:

1. General trapping practices
2. Trapping safety
3. Trapping ethics and responsibilities
4. Knowing and preparing trapping equipment
5. Knowing furbearing species
6. Handling the catch
7. Nevada specific regulations

## Course Delivery

- Delivering trapper education can be completed by a variety of methods
- Each method has specific strengths
- Trapper education targets a limited number of students and maintaining a viable program is necessary with limited resources

## Course Delivery Options

Possible models of trapper education course delivery include:

1. Proctored exam - This model could consist of an exam proctored by staff or certified volunteers
  - a. Limited availability, exam dates would be limited by the number of students and the availability of proctors
  - b. No formal educational component, student studies on their own
  - c. Pass/fail determined by established percentage correct answers
  - d. Limitation on number of times exam can be failed would need consideration
2. Online only – Provided by a vendor this model consists of monitored course material and passage of online exam
  - a. Courses on basic trapper education already exist
  - b. Method reaches the largest number of students
  - c. Available on demand at any time
  - d. Can be customized for Nevada specific content
3. Instructor lead – Independent study, followed by instructor lead classroom education and final exam
  - a. Limited availability based on number of students and availability of certified instructors
  - b. New program would need developed
  - c. Not available on demand
  - d. Can be fully customized

## Course Costs

- Creating a cost effective program is vital for long term viability
- Small number of students increases the per student cost of any education program

## Course Cost Potential

1. Proctored exam –
  - a. Low cost to agency and student
  - b. Staff time for initial exam development
  - c. Staff time for training exam proctors
  - d. Staff time for administering test or serving as proctors
2. Online only –
  - a. Low cost to agency, minimal cost to student
  - b. Student pays vendor directly to take the course and test (approximately \$35)
  - c. Initial course customization at a cost to agency
  - d. Staff time for content development
  - e. Minimal ongoing cost to agency
3. Instructor lead –
  - a. High cost to agency, minimal cost to student
  - b. Using Hunter Ed model student would pay up to \$10 to instructor
  - c. Staff time for initial content development
  - d. Ongoing volunteer recruitment and training
    - i. Maintaining a corps of volunteers may be difficult with limited number of class dates
  - e. State mandated background checks for volunteers
    - i. Using the Hunter Ed model, potential instructors with wildlife violations are typically ineligible to become instructors
  - f. Printing of educational materials
    - i. Short runs of student manual are typically high cost
  - g. Significant ongoing cost to the agency